

Serial No. 10/628,920

HRT 303CON

1-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an anastomosis by placing a lumen of a graft vessel in fluid communication with a lumen of a target vessel through an opening in a wall of the target vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of clips, the clips being made of superelastic material, each of the plurality of clips each having a first end and a second end, a first ~~configuration~~position, where the first end and second end are spaced apart so as to be able to receive therebetween a portion of the graft vessel and a portion of a target vessel tissue proximate the opening in the wall of the target vessel, and a second ~~configuration~~position, where the portion of the graft vessel and the portion of the target vessel are approximated;

positioning the first end of each of the plurality of clips through the opening in the target vessel;

passing the first end of each of the plurality of clips through an inner wall of the target vessel while the clips are in the first configuration;

passing at least a portion of each of the plurality of clips through the graft vessel and the target vessel; and

permitting each of the plurality of clips to assume the second position to approximate the graft vessel and the target vessel.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein the second passing step comprises passing the first end of each of the plurality of clips through an outer wall of the graft vessel while in the first position.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~59~~58, wherein the passing step of claim 59 occurs prior to the positioning step of claim 58. ~~comprises passing each of the plurality of clips through the opening in the target vessel and through an inner wall of the target vessel while in the first position.~~

Serial No. 10/628,920

HRT 303CON

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, comprising the step of positioning one end of each clip through the graft vessel at radially spaced locations about the graft vessel.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein each clip of the plurality of clips is separately passed through the graft vessel.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, comprising compressing the graft vessel and the target vessel together when at least one of the plurality of clips is in the second ~~configuration~~position.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein each clip of the plurality of clips independently approximates the graft vessel and the target vessel when each clip of the plurality of clips is in the second ~~configuration~~position.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein at least one of the first end and the second end of the plurality of clips cross over one another when moving from the first ~~position~~configuration to the second ~~position~~configuration to form an enclosed space to retain a portion of the graft vessel and a portion of the target vessel.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein each clip is isothermally transformed from the first ~~position~~configuration to the second ~~position~~configuration.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, wherein each clip of the plurality of clips is restrained in the first ~~position~~configuration.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, comprising, prior to the permitting step, releasing each clip of the plurality of clips from the first ~~position~~configuration.

Serial No. 10/628,920

HRT 303CON

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the releasing step is performed using one of a needle driver and forceps.

70. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an anastomosis by placing a lumen of a graft vessel in fluid communication with a lumen of a target vessel through an opening in a wall of the target vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of clips, the clips being made of superelastic material, each of the plurality of clips each having a first end and a second end, a first configuration, where the first end and second end are spaced apart to receive therebetween a portion of the graft vessel and a portion of a target vessel tissue proximate the opening in the wall of the target vessel, and a second configuration, where the portion of the graft vessel and the portion of the target vessel are approximated;

The method of claim 58, comprising the step of coupling each of the plurality of clips to a band;

passing each of the plurality of clips through the graft vessel and the target vessel; and permitting each of the plurality of clips to assume the second configuration to approximate the graft vessel and the target vessel.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, comprising the step of severing the band.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, comprising the step of removing the band from each of the plurality of clips.